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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/625,913	07/26/2000	Albert Henricus Franciscus de Heer	GDT1P002	8216

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NIXON PEABODY, LLP
401 9TH STREET, NW
SUITE 900
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2128

EXAMINER	
AL HASHEMI, SANA A	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2161	

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/625,913	DE HEER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sana Al-Hashemi	2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 May 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to applicant's amendment filed 5/31/05.

2. Claims 1-39 are pending.

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. as being unpatentable over Povilus (US Patent No. 5,740,425) in view of Walker et al. (Walker hereinafter) (US patent No. 6,249,772)

Regarding Claims 1, and 31, 32, and 33, Povilus discloses a method of distributing data for use in a catalog, comprising:

capturing product data for one or more products according to data model, the data model having one or more classes, each one of the one or more classes being defined by one or more categories, each of the one or more categories being defined by an attribute group having one or more attributes (see Col. 6, lines 48-53, Povilus);

Povilus is silent with respect to the method of storing the product data including both a manufacturer SKU that identifies the product and a customer SKU that identifies the product, and at least one customer SKU that identifies the product, each customer SKU being associated with a customer for which the product data is being stored for subsequence distribution to the customer, wherein the sorted product data is suitable for use in an electronic catalog, the customer being a manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of the product. On the other hand Walker at Fig. 6A disclose the method of storing the product data including both a manufacturer SKU that identifies the product (ITEM NUMBER, wherein the item number corresponds to the manufacture SKU) and a customer SKU that identifies the product (STORE ID NUMBER, wherein the store id number corresponds to the customer SKU), and at least one customer SKU that identifies the product, each customer SKU being associated with a customer for which the product data is being stored for subsequence distribution to the customer (MODEL), wherein the sorted product data is suitable for use in an electronic catalog, the customer being a manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of the product (Co. 8, lines 10-17, Walker). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Povilus and providing more than one identification number to one product, skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so to control the flow of products to different retailer by one identification

number even if the retailers use different method of identifying the same product based on the way the sort their products.

Regarding Claims 2, 34, 35, and 36, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method of maintaining catalog data stored in a system product data file, comprising:

receiving a customer product portfolio file, the customer portfolio file including at least one SKU associated with each product for which data is requested by a customer, the customer being a manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of the products (Col. 7, lines 13-19, Povilus[1]);

mapping the customer product portfolio file to the system product data file such that each product identified in the customer product portfolio file that is not in the system product data file is identified (Col. 7, lines 19-28, Povilus);

capturing data for the product that is not in the system product data file (Col. 8, lines 2-7, Povilus);

adding the captured data for the product to the system product data file (Col. 8, lines 7-15, Povilus).

Regarding Claims 3, and 4, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

generating component data for the product from the system product data file, wherein the component data includes at least one of a product description, technical specifications, a marketing description, an image(Col. 8, lines 25-33, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 5, and 6, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

[1] Examiner interprets the Definer corresponds to the customer SKU.

generating enriched product data from the system product data file according to a customer profile, transmitting the enriched product data (Col. 8, lines 34-39, Povilus[2]);

Regarding Claim 6, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method wherein the steps of generating enriched product data and transmitting the enriched product data are performed simultaneously with the steps of capturing data, adding the captured data, and generating component data (Col. 8, lines 52-58, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 7, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method wherein the customer product portfolio file includes:

a manufacturer SKU associated with a product (Col. 17, lines 58-61, Povilus);

a customer SKU assigned by a customer to the product (Col. 18, lines 17-25, Povilus);

a manufacturer identifier for the product that identifies a manufacturer of the product (Col. 17, lines 61-66, Povilus);

a product description describing the product (Col. 17, lines 41-54, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 8, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

retrieving a component definition associated with the component data, the component definition having a section header, a line header, and a line body definition that defines contents and format for a line body which describes the line header (Col. 20, lines 1-20, Povilus);

obtaining the contents of the line body from the system product data file and from literals provided in the line body definition (Col. 20, lines 10-19, Povilus);

providing the section header, the line header, and the line body (Col. 20, lines 19-29, Povilus).

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[2] Examine interprets the further details disclosed by Povilus corresponds to enriched claimed.

Regarding Claim 9, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

classifying the product in one of a plurality of categories, each of the categories having at least one attribute group that identifies one or more attributes, each of the attributes being associated with one or more values (Col. 19, lines 46-63, Povilus);

wherein the line header identifies an attribute group associated with the product (Fig. 19, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 10, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

classifying the product according to a data model (Col. 19, lines 20-24, Povilus);

extracting information specified by a component definition from the system product data file and the data model(Col. 19, lines 24-29, Povilus);

building a component descriptor from the extracted information and the component definition (Col. 19, lines 29-31, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 11, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

providing the component descriptor in response to a catalog query (Col. 19, lines 40-45, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 12, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

storing the component descriptor in a file (Col. 10, lines 60-63, Povilus).

Regarding Claims 13, and 37, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method of maintaining catalog data stored in a system product data file, comprising:

receiving a customer product portfolio file that identifies products for which data is requested, wherein the customer product portfolio file includes at least one SKU associated with each of the products for which data is requested by the customer, the customer being a

manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of the products the customer being a manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of the products for which data is requested by the customer in the customer products portfolio file(Col. 10, lines 27-50, Povilus);

mapping the customer product portfolio file to the system product data file such that each product that is in the system product data file is identified (Col. 10, lines 50-60, Povilus);

generating enriched product data from the system product data file according to a customer profile; transmitting the enriched product data (Col. 12, lines 5-19, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 14, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method wherein the customer profile identifies at least one customer, and wherein generating enriched product data from the system product data file according to the customer profile includes:

obtaining a system record associated with a customer from the system product data file (Col. 6, lines 66-67, Povilus);

generating a product header for the system record, the product header including a customer SKU associated with the system record (Col. 12, lines 5-19, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 15, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method wherein the product header further includes a system SKU that identifies a product associated with the system record and a category identifier that identifies a category in which the product is classified (Fig. 19, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 16, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method wherein the product header further includes at least one of a manufacturer product description that describes standard features of the product, a product line associated with the product, and a model number associated with the product (Col. 17, lines 41-57, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 17, and 18, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method wherein the customer profile further includes customer searchable attribute preferences corresponding to each customer, the customer searchable attribute preferences specifying attributes for which values are to be transmitted, the method further including:

obtaining attribute values for the specified attributes from the system record (Col. 14, 58-65, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 19, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

producing a list of related products associated with the system record (Col. 13, lines 27-35, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 20, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method, wherein the list of related products includes the customer SKU associated with the system record (Col. 17, lines 58-61, Povilus) and a customer SKU for each of the related products (Col. 17, lines 58-61, Povilus).

Regarding Claims 21, 29, and 30, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method of maintaining catalog data stored in a system product data file, comprising:

receiving a customer product portfolio file that identifies products for which data is requested by one or more customer, the data being suitable for use in an electronic catalog, the customer product portfolio file including a manufacturer SKU associated with each product, a customer SKU associated with the product, a manufacturer identifier identifying a manufacturer of each of the products for which data is requested, the customer being a manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of the products for which data is requested by the customer in the customer products portfolio file (Col. 10, lines 27-50, Povilus); and

mapping the customer product portfolio file to the system product data file such that each product for which data is not in the system product data file is identified, thereby identifying one or more of the products for which data is requested and has not been obtained and stored in the system product data file (Col. 10, lines 50-60, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 22, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method wherein mapping the customer product portfolio file includes:

ascertaining whether the manufacturer identified in the customer product portfolio file is new, the manufacturer being a new manufacturer if the manufacturer is not identified in the system product data file(Col. 12, lines 5-19, Povilus); and

if the manufacturer is new, assigning a manufacturer identifier to the new manufacturer such that the manufacturer identifier is stored in the system product data file (Col. 17,lines 41-54, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 23, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method wherein mapping the customer product portfolio file includes:

determining whether the customer SKU in the customer product portfolio file is new, the customer SKU being new if the customer SKU is not identified in the system product data file (Col. 7, lines 13-19, Povilus);

if the customer SKU is new, creating a new system SKU such that the new system SKU is mapped in the system product data file to the customer SKU (Col. 19-28, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 24, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

classifying the new system SKU according to a data model, the data model including one or more classes, each of the one or more classes including one or more categories (Col. 18, lines 41-50, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 25, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method further including:

determining whether the customer SKU is invalid (Col. 38, lines 56-63, Povilus);

reporting the customer SKU if it is determined to be invalid(Col. 38, lines 63-67, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 26, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method of querying a catalog database, the catalog database including

product data for one or more products, each of the products being classified in at least one of a plurality of categories, the product data for each product including a set of attributes corresponding to the category within which the product is classified, each of the attributes having at least one attribute value, the method comprising:

accepting a selection of at least one of the set of attributes corresponding to one of the plurality of categories (Col. 18, lines 51-54, Povilus);

accepting a selection of products within the one of the plurality of categories (Col. 18, lines 5-59, Povilus);

obtaining one or more attribute values corresponding to the selected attributes for each of the selected products from the catalog database (Col. 18, lines 60-65, Povilus);

displaying the obtained attribute values for the selected products (Col. 15,lines 24-32, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 27,Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method where displaying the obtained attribute values for the selected products includes assigning normalized numeric values to the obtained attribute values (Col. 18, lines 51-54, Povilus).

Regarding Claim 28, Povilus in view of Walker discloses a method of querying a catalog database including product data for one or more products classified according to a data model, the method comprising:

accepting a user query specifying a product and a component to be retrieved for use in a catalog, the catalog component including at least one of a product description, technical specifications, a marketing description, an image, and a URL associated with the product (Col. 19, lines 25-31, Povilus);

obtaining a catalog component definition associated with the catalog component, the catalog component definition defining a format for the catalog component (Col. 18, lines 60-65, Povilus);

extracting information specified by the catalog component definition from the catalog database and the data model (Col. 19, lines 34-45, Povilus);

building a catalog component descriptor from the extracted information and the catalog component definition (Col. 19, lines 46-54, Povilus).

Remarks

Applicant argues that the Povilus fails to disclose "both manufacture SKU and customer SKU that identifies the product".

Examiner agrees and present the Walker reference that teaches identifying the product with "item Number" as the "manufacture SKU" and the "store ID number" as the "customer SKU" as disclosed in Fig. 6A.

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is 571-272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sana Al-Hashemi
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100
July 18, 2005

Sana AL-Hashemi